SUPERMAN
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NO. 142
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10¢
BATMAN
"RULER of the BEWITCHED VALLEY!"
FOOLS! YOU WERE WARNED OF MY POWERS! NOW, MY CREATURE WILL DESTROY YOU!

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER
FROM THE VAST REACHES OF OUTER SPACE IT CAME! ITS MISSION?... TO PROTECT THE LIFE OF BATMAN! LITTLE DID THE CAPED-CRIME FIGHTER REALIZE, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD MORE OF AN ENEMY THAN A FRIEND IN...
BATMAN'S ROBOT-GUARDIAN
OH, NO--! THERE'S BATMAN'S ROBOT GUARDIAN, APPEARING AT THE WRONG TIME AGAIN!
BOB KANE

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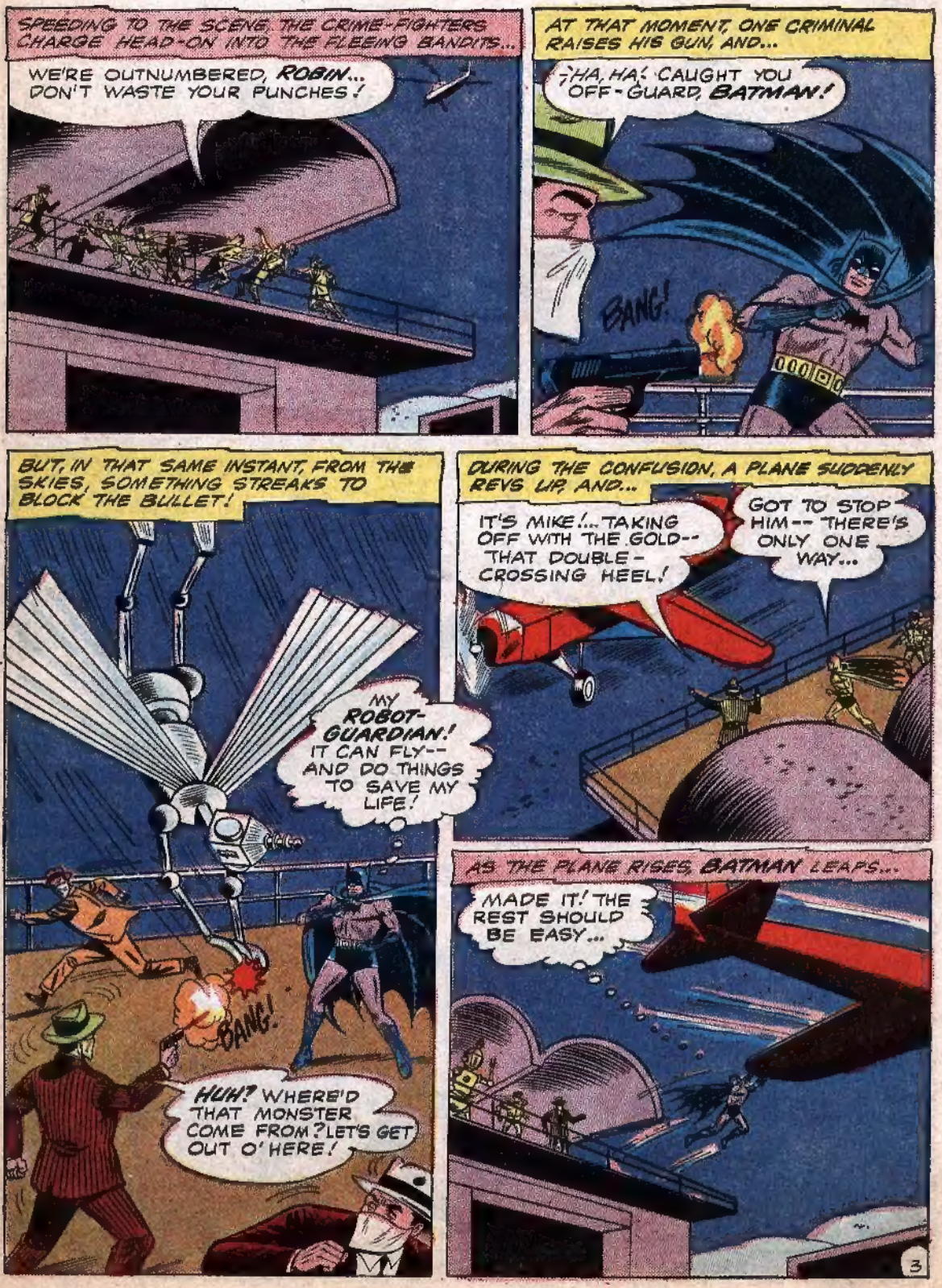
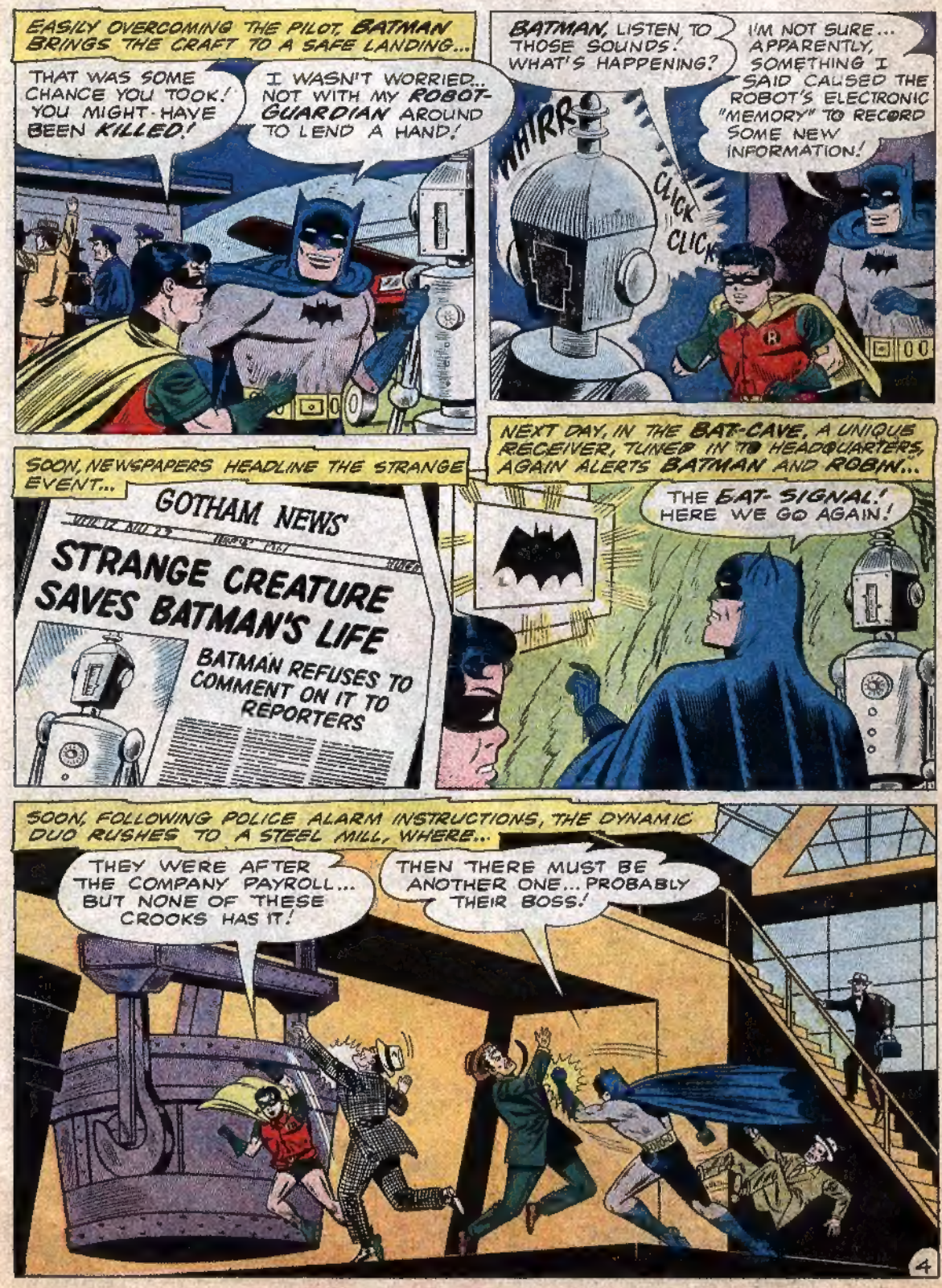
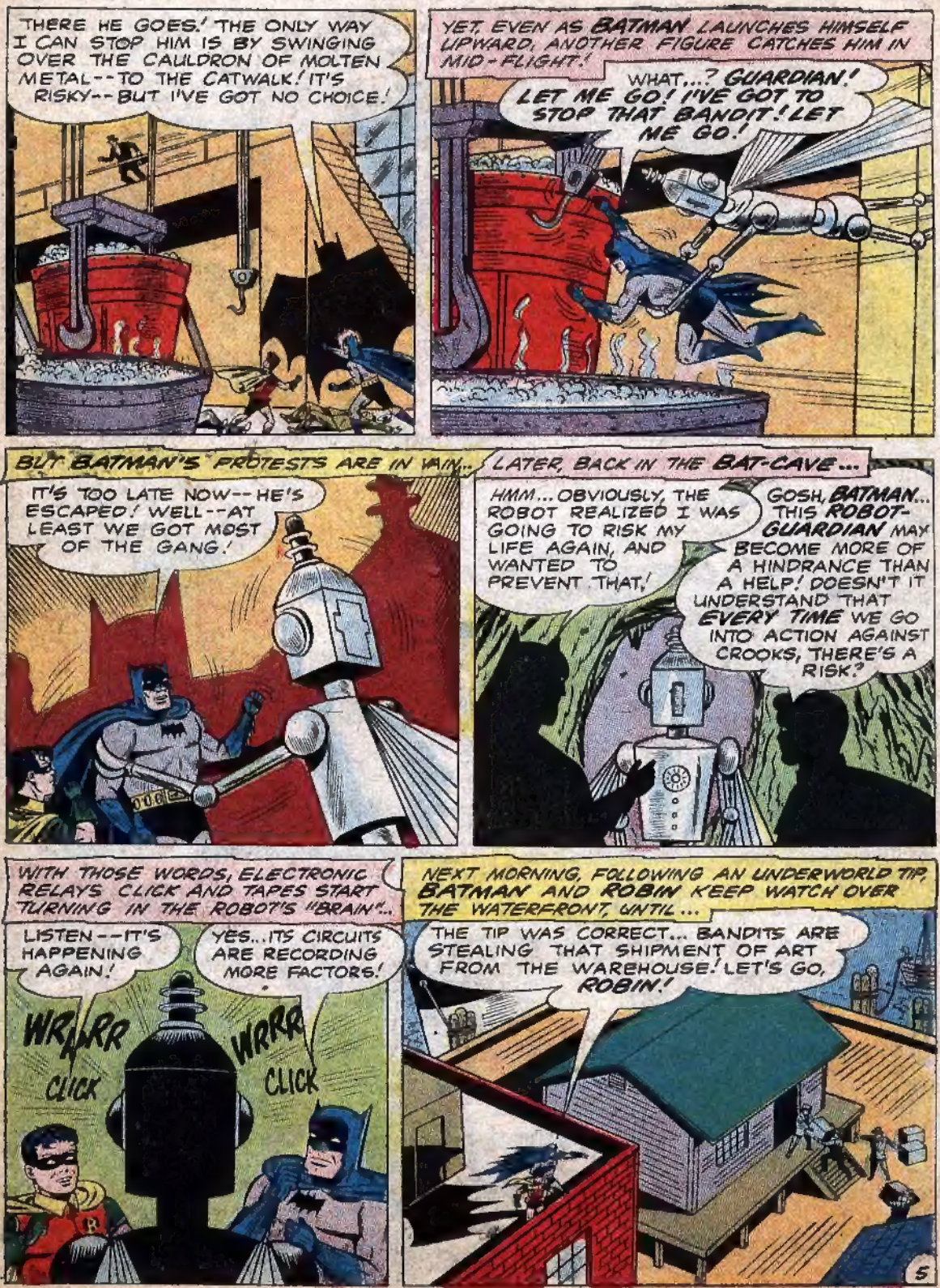
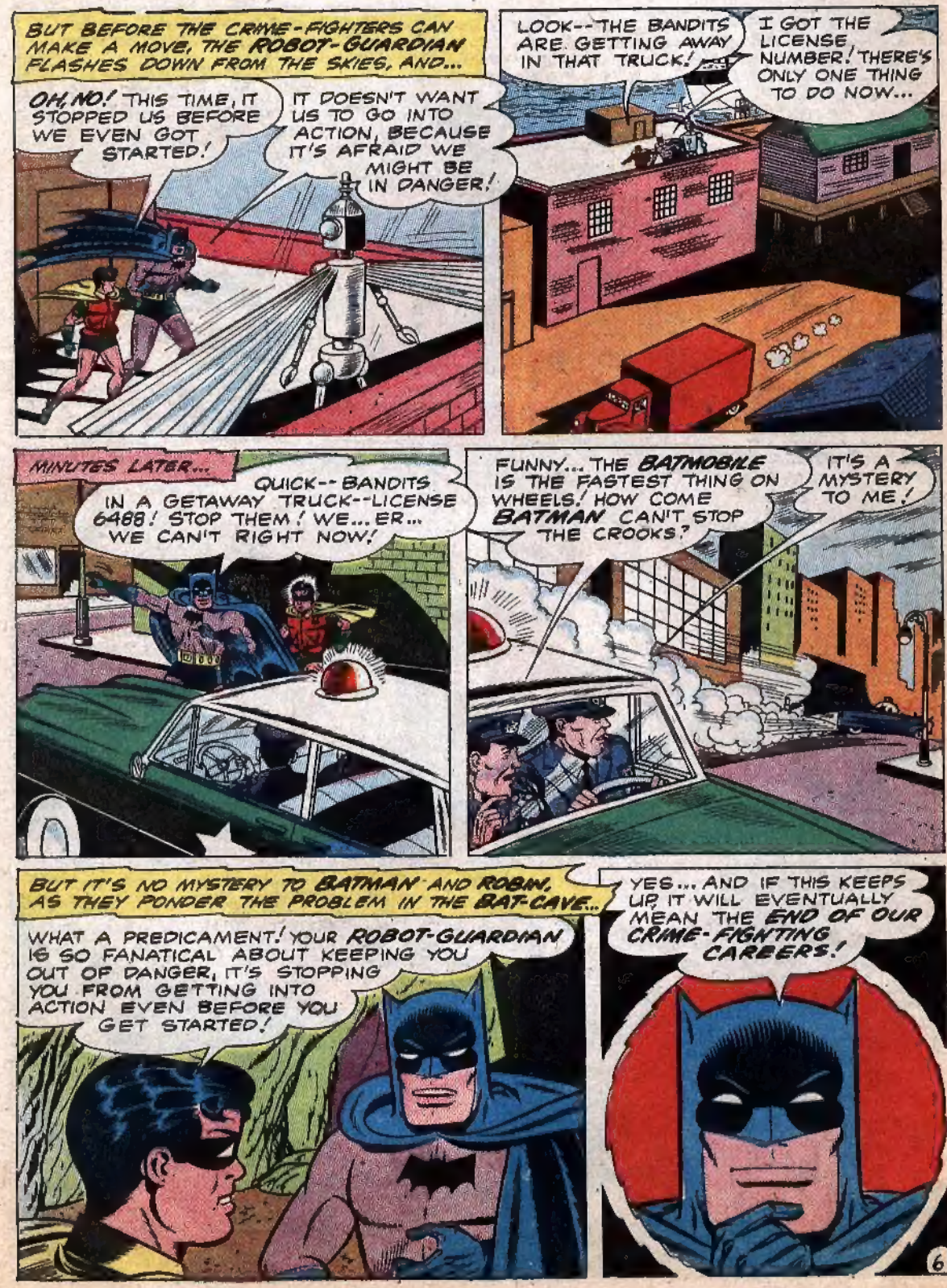
AS BATMAN AND ROBIN PREPARE TO GO OUT ON PATROL, ONE NIGHT, A STARTLING SURPRISE AWAITS THEM IN THE BAT-CAVE...
B-BATMAN! SOME KIND OF CREATURE'S FOUND ITS WAY IN HERE!
IT'S GOING TO ATTACK US!
NO--WAIT, ROBIN! IT'S HOLDING OUT SOME KIND OF PROJECTOR--AND AIMING IT AT THE WALL!
INSTANTLY, AN AMAZING FILM IS PROJECTED...
WHY--THAT'S TAL-DAR... THE ALIEN WE ONCE HELPED ON HIS NATIVE PLANET!
BATMAN, IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR PAST HELP I HAVE SENT YOU A GIFT--A ROBOT! THIS ROBOT HAS BEEN ELECTRONICALLY CONDITIONED TO DO ONE THING... PROTECT YOUR LIFE!
IT HAS COME TO YOU IN A SPACE CAPSULE WHICH IT HAS HIDDEN... AND IT WILL REMAIN WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO SAVE YOUR LIFE WHENEVER YOU ARE IN DANGER! FAREWELL, OLD FRIEND!
GREAT SCOTT... A PROTECTOR?
I CAN'T HAVE A SO-CALLED GUARDIAN AROUND TO INTERFERE WITH MY CRIME-FIGHTING! ROBOT--GO HOME! I DON'T NEED YOU! GO HOME!
LATER, ON PATROL, THE BATMOBILE POLICE RADIO BLARES AN ALARM...
ROBBERS STEALING GOLD SHIPMENT AT GOTHAM AIRPORT!
THAT'S FOR US!... GOTHAM AIRPORT IS RIGHT NEARBY!
2

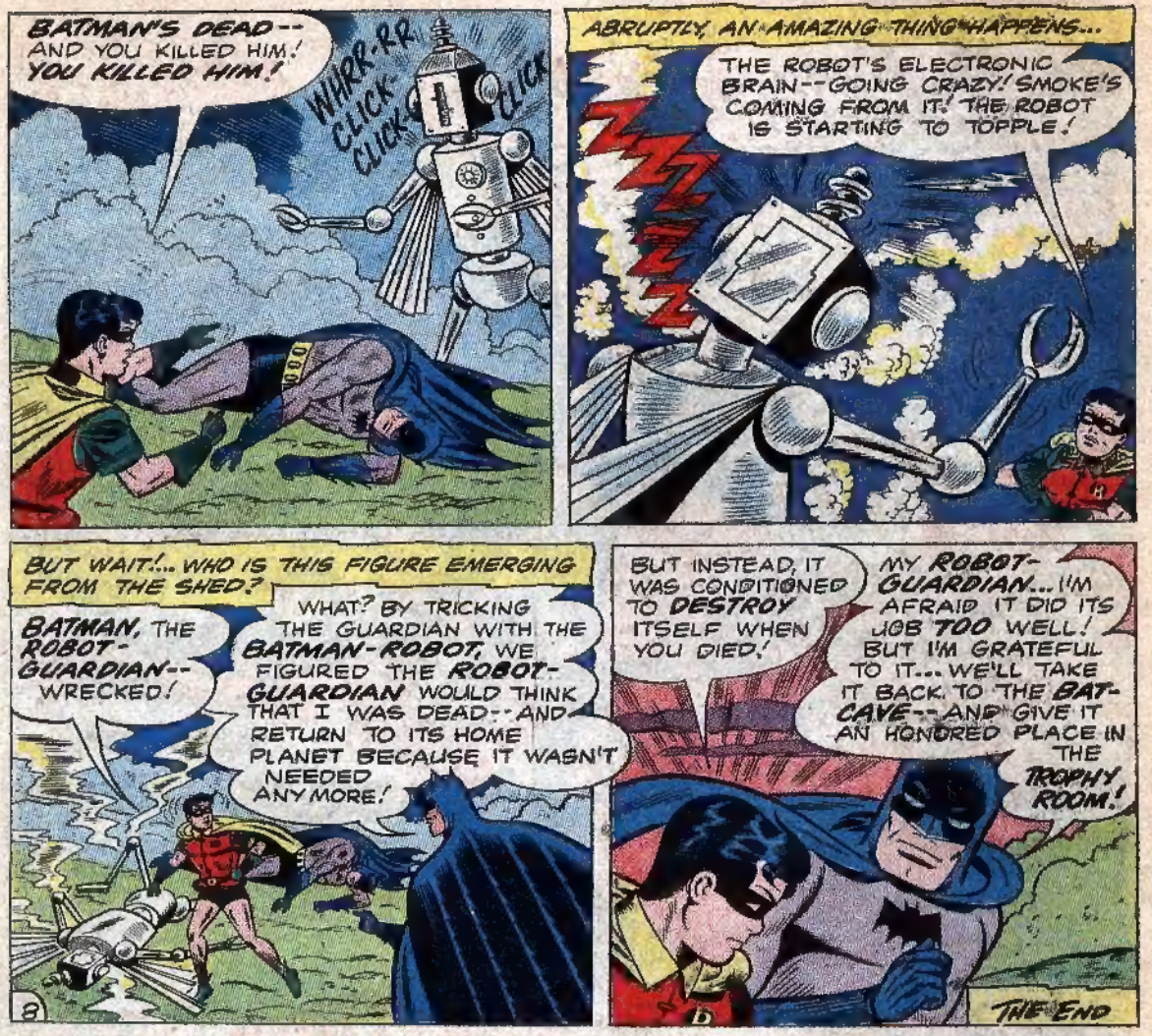

SPEEDING TO THE SCENE, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS CHARGE HEAD-ON INTO THE FLEEING BANDITS...
WE'RE OUTNUMBERED, ROBIN... DON'T WASTE YOUR PUNCHES!
AT THAT MOMENT, ONE CRIMINAL RAISES HIS GUN, AND...
HA, HA! CAUGHT YOU OFF-GUARD, BATMAN!
BANG!
BUT, IN THAT SAME INSTANT, FROM THE SKIES, SOMETHING STREAKS TO BLOCK THE BULLET!
MY ROBOT-GUARDIAN! IT CAN FLY-- AND DO THINGS TO SAVE MY LIFE!
BANG!
HUH? WHERE'D THAT MONSTER COME FROM? LET'S GET OUT O' HERE!
DURING THE CONFUSION, A PLANE SUDDENLY REVS UP, AND...
IT'S MIKE!... TAKING OFF WITH THE GOLD-- THAT DOUBLE-CROSSING HEEL!
GOT TO STOP HIM-- THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY...
AS THE PLANE RISES, BATMAN LEAPS...
MADE IT! THE REST SHOULD BE EASY...
3


EASILY OVERCOMING THE PILOT, BATMAN BRINGS THE CRAFT TO A SAFE LANDING...
THAT WAS SOME CHANCE YOU TOOK! YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED!
I WASN'T WORRIED.. NOT WITH MY ROBOT-GUARDIAN AROUND TO LEND A HAND!
BATMAN, LISTEN TO THOSE SOUNDS! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I'M NOT SURE... APPARENTLY, SOMETHING I SAID CAUSED THE ROBOT'S ELECTRONIC "MEMORY" TO RECORD SOME NEW INFORMATION!
WHIRR
CLICK
CLICK
SOON, NEWSPAPERS HEADLINE THE STRANGE EVENT...
GOTHAM NEWS
STRANGE CREATURE SAVES BATMAN'S LIFE
BATMAN REFUSES TO COMMENT ON IT TO REPORTERS
NEXT DAY, IN THE BAT-CAVE, A UNIQUE RECEIVER, TUNED IN TO HEADQUARTERS, AGAIN ALERTS BATMAN AND ROBIN...
THE BAT-SIGNAL! HERE WE GO AGAIN!
SOON, FOLLOWING POLICE ALARM INSTRUCTIONS, THE DYNAMIC DUO RUSHES TO A STEEL MILL, WHERE...
THEY WERE AFTER THE COMPANY PAYROLL... BUT NONE OF THESE CROOKS HAS IT!
THEN THERE MUST BE ANOTHER ONE... PROBABLY THEIR BOSS!
4


THERE HE GOES! THE ONLY WAY I CAN STOP HIM IS BY SWINGING OVER THE CAULDRON OF MOLTEN METAL--TO THE CATWALK! IT'S RISKY--BUT I'VE GOT NO CHOICE!
YET, EVEN AS BATMAN LAUNCHES HIMSELF UPWARD, ANOTHER FIGURE CATCHES HIM IN MID-FLIGHT!
WHAT...? GUARDIAN! LET ME GO! I'VE GOT TO STOP THAT BANDIT! LET ME GO!
BUT BATMAN'S PROTESTS ARE IN VAIN...
IT'S TOO LATE NOW--HE'S ESCAPED! WELL--AT LEAST WE GOT MOST OF THE GANG!
LATER, BACK IN THE BAT-CAVE...
HMM...OBVIOUSLY, THE ROBOT REALIZED I WAS GOING TO RISK MY LIFE AGAIN, AND WANTED TO PREVENT THAT!
GOSH, BATMAN... THIS ROBOT-GUARDIAN MAY BECOME MORE OF A HINDRANCE THAN A HELP! DOESN'T IT UNDERSTAND THAT EVERY TIME WE GO INTO ACTION AGAINST CROOKS, THERE'S A RISK?
WITH THOSE WORDS, ELECTRONIC RELAYS CLICK AND TAPES START TURNING IN THE ROBOT'S "BRAIN"...
LISTEN--IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!
YES...ITS CIRCUITS ARE RECORDING MORE FACTORS!
WRRRR
CLICK
WRRR
CLICK
NEXT MORNING, FOLLOWING AN UNDERWORLD TIP, BATMAN AND ROBIN KEEP WATCH OVER THE WATERFRONT, UNTIL...
THE TIP WAS CORRECT... BANDITS ARE STEALING THAT SHIPMENT OF ART FROM THE WAREHOUSE! LET'S GO, ROBIN!


BUT BEFORE THE CRIME-FIGHTERS CAN MAKE A MOVE, THE ROBOT-GUARDIAN FLASHES DOWN FROM THE SKIES, AND...
OH, NO! THIS TIME, IT STOPPED US BEFORE WE EVEN GOT STARTED!
IT DOESN'T WANT US TO GO INTO ACTION, BECAUSE IT'S AFRAID WE MIGHT BE IN DANGER!
LOOK--THE BANDITS ARE GETTING AWAY IN THAT TRUCK!
I GOT THE LICENSE NUMBER! THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO NOW...
MINUTES LATER...
QUICK--BANDITS IN A GETAWAY TRUCK--LICENSE 6488! STOP THEM! WE...ER... WE CAN'T RIGHT NOW!
FUNNY... THE BATMOBILE IS THE FASTEST THING ON WHEELS! HOW COME BATMAN CAN'T STOP THE CROOKS?
IT'S A MYSTERY TO ME!
BUT IT'S NO MYSTERY TO BATMAN AND ROBIN, AS THEY PONDER THE PROBLEM IN THE BAT-CAVE...
WHAT A PREDICAMENT! YOUR ROBOT-GUARDIAN IS SO FANATICAL ABOUT KEEPING YOU OUT OF DANGER, IT'S STOPPING YOU FROM GETTING INTO ACTION EVEN BEFORE YOU GET STARTED!
YES... AND IF THIS KEEPS UP, IT WILL EVENTUALLY MEAN THE END OF OUR CRIME-FIGHTING CAREERS!

COULDN'T WE COUNTER-COMMAND ITS ORDERS--OR ORDER IT BACK TO ITS HOME PLANET?
IMPOSSIBLE! THE ROBOT CAN ONLY FOLLOW ITS ORIGINAL ORDER FROM TAL-DAR... AND WHILE IT'S HERE, IT KEEPS ADDING TO ITS ELECTRONIC BRAIN--MORE DATA FOR IT TO KEEP US FROM ANY POSSIBLE DANGER!
THEN--WHAT'LL WE DO?
I DON'T KNOW--I JUST DON'T KNOW...
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...
THERE'S THE ROBOT--CIRCLING OVERHEAD AS ALWAYS!
ROBIN--YOU STAY HERE! I'M GOING INSIDE THE SHED!
TENSE MINUTES ELAPSE BEFORE THE CAPED FIGURE FINALLY EMERGES FROM THE SHED...
IT'S JUST AS I FIGURED, ROBIN... THE TNT GANG CACHED ITS EXPLOSIVES IN THIS SHED! HERE'S A BOX OF THE STUFF!
HRRRRR
CLICK-CLICK-CLICK-
REACTING AUTOMATICALLY, THE ROBOT-GUARDIAN TRIES TO SNATCH AWAY THIS POSSIBLE DANGER TO BATMAN--BUT, AS ITS TALONS SINK INTO THE BOX, STRIKING A SPARK...
BOOM
BATMAN! OH...NO...NO...
7


BATMAN'S DEAD-- AND YOU KILLED HIM! YOU KILLED HIM!
WHRR-RR CLICK-CLICK-CLICK
ABRUPTLY, AN AMAZING THING HAPPENS...
THE ROBOT'S ELECTRONIC BRAIN--GOING CRAZY! SMOKE'S COMING FROM IT! THE ROBOT IS STARTING TO TOPPLE!
ZZZZZZ
BUT WAIT!... WHO IS THIS FIGURE EMERGING FROM THE SHED?
BATMAN, THE ROBOT-GUARDIAN--WRECKED!
WHAT? BY TRICKING THE GUARDIAN WITH THE BATMAN-ROBOT, WE FIGURED THE ROBOT-GUARDIAN WOULD THINK THAT I WAS DEAD--AND RETURN TO ITS HOME PLANET BECAUSE IT WASN'T NEEDED ANYMORE!
8
BUT INSTEAD, IT WAS CONDITIONED TO DESTROY ITSELF WHEN YOU DIED!
MY ROBOT-GUARDIAN... I'M AFRAID IT DID ITS JOB TOO WELL! BUT I'M GRATEFUL TO IT... WE'LL TAKE IT BACK TO THE BAT-CAVE--AND GIVE IT AN HONORED PLACE IN THE TROPHY ROOM!
THE END

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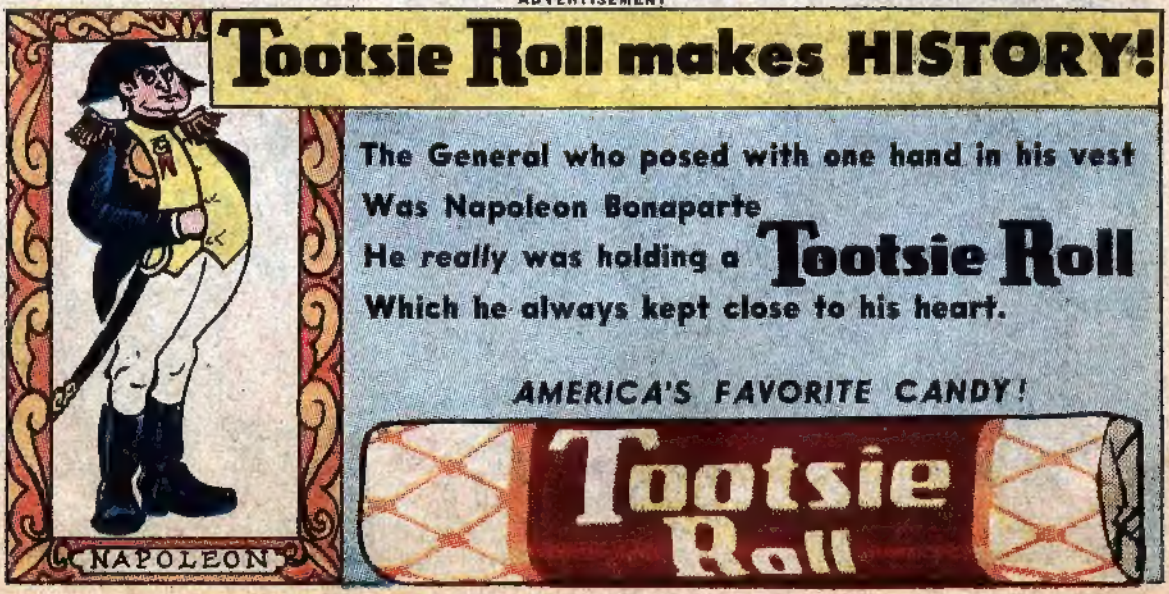

Tootsie Roll makes HISTORY!
NAPOLEON
The General who posed with one hand in his vest
Was Napoleon Bonaparte
He really was holding a Tootsie Roll
Which he always kept close to his heart.
AMERICA'S FAVORITE CANDY!
Tootsie Roll

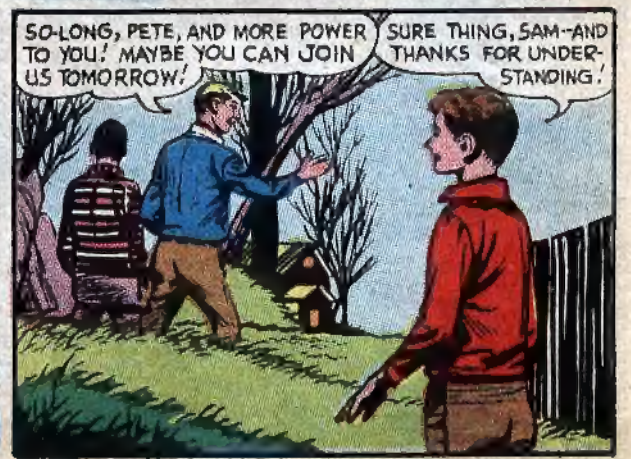
The RIGHT to be DIFFERENT!

COME ON, PETE, WE'RE GOING FOR A SWIM!
GOSH, FRED, I--I WAS GOING TO GO DOWN TO WHERE THEY'RE CUTTING THROUGH THE NEW ROAD TODAY. THERE OUGHT TO BE SOME QUARTZ OVER THERE I MIGHT PICK UP.

AW, WHY DO YOU WANT TO BOTHER LOOKING FOR SILLY OLD ROCKS? WHAT FUN IS THAT?
YOU'D BE SURPRISED! I HAVE ABOUT 25 DIFFERENT KINDS IN MY COLLECTION ALREADY ... AND IT'S PRETTY EXCITING!

YOU LEARN A LOT FROM THEM ABOUT HOW THE EARTH WAS MADE, AND WHAT THE MARKS ON THE STONES MEAN, AND HOW JEWELS WERE FORMED FROM MINERALS...

OKAY, OKAY, DON'T JOIN THE GANG! BE A SQUARE, IF YOU WANT!
THAT'S NOT FAIR, FRED! WHAT'S WRONG IF PETE WANTS TO BE ALONE SOMETIMES DOING SOMETHING HE'S INTERESTED IN?



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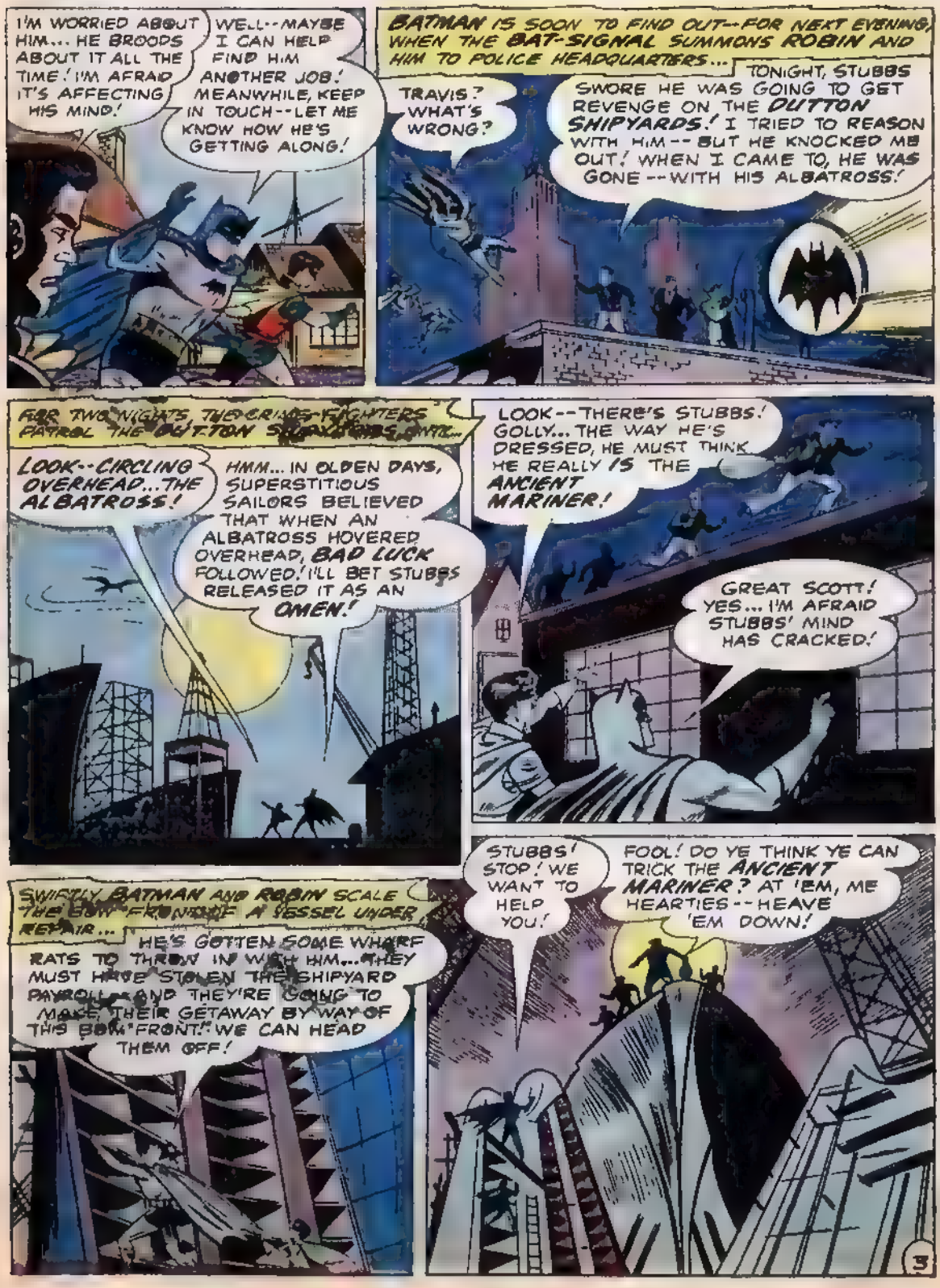
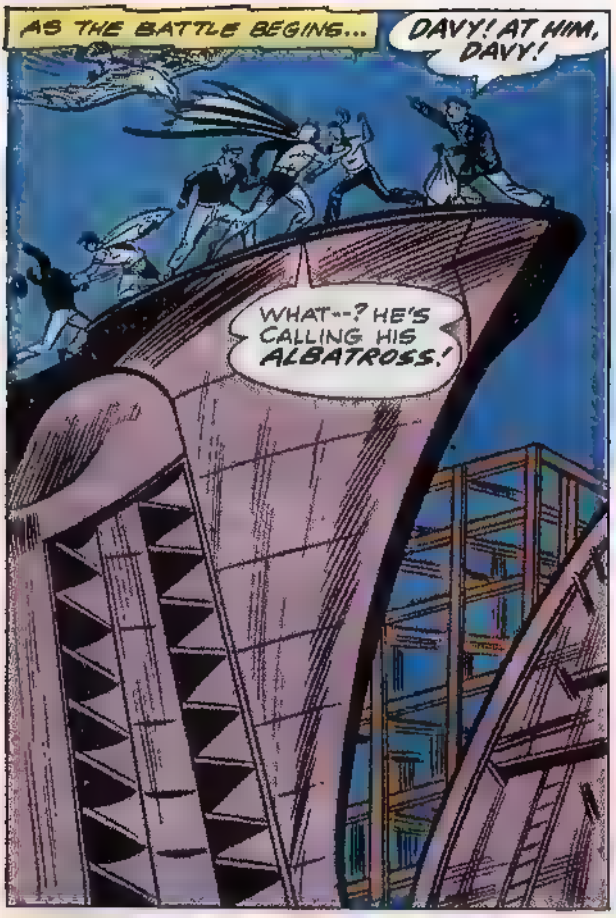
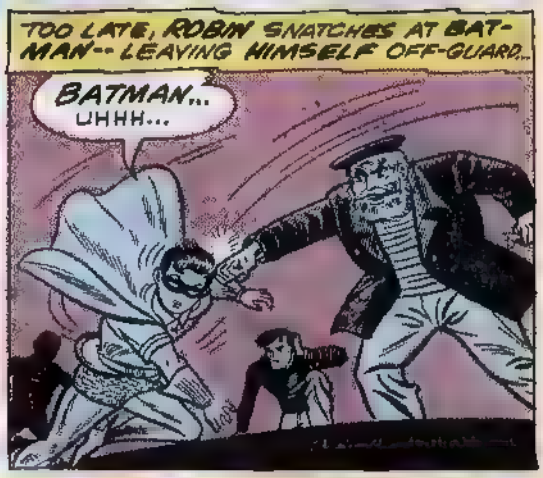
BATMAN
with ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
TO SEAMEN OF OLDEN DAYS, THE ALBATROSS WAS A BIRD OF ILL OMEN... BUT NOW, THE OLD SUPERSTITION SEEMS TO COME TRUE, AS AN ALBATROSS HOVERS OVER BATMAN AND ROBIN! FORETELLING EVIL AND PIRACY, IT DRAWS THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTERS INTO A STRANGE MYSTERY, AS THEY BATTLE...
the CRIMES of the ANCIENT MARINER
ATTACK, DAVY-- ATTACK BATMAN!
GREAT SCOTT! THE ANCIENT MARINER IS ORDERING HIS HUGE ALBATROSS AT ME!
BOB KANE

WHILE PATROLLING THE WATERFRONT ONE NIGHT, BATMAN AND ROBIN RACE UP TO STOP A BRAWLING BATTLE...
I'LL SHOW YE I'M AS STRONG AS EVER! I'LL SHOW YE I'M AS TOUGH AS A YOUNGER MAN!
THE WHITE WHALE
BREAK IT UP, MEN! WHAT STARTED THIS?
WE WERE JUST TEASING HIM A BIT--WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN THE ANCIENT MARINER LIT INTO US...
HMM...COME ON OLD-TIMER, WE'LL TAKE YOU HOME!
HOME--A WATERFRONT BOARDING HOUSE RUN BY TOM TRAVIS...
BATMAN AND ROBIN? OH, MR. STUBBS!... DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN FIGHTING AGAIN?
AYE...PEOPLE MOCK ME, TOM--BECAUSE I'VE BEEN BEACHED--BUT I'LL MAKE THE DUTTON SHIPYARDS PAY FOR WHAT THEY DID TO ME!
RUSHING INTO THE HOUSE, TOM TRAVIS FETCHES SOMETHING FROM STUBBS' ROOM...
HERE, MR STUBBS--DAVY JONES HAS BEEN WAITING FOR YOU! NOW--WHY DON'T YOU GO IN AND GET SOME SLEEP..?
GREAT SCOTT! THAT SEA BIRD--IT'S AN ALBATROSS!
YES--HE PICKED UP THAT PET DURING HIS TRAVELS, AND TRAINED IT! THAT'S HOW STUBBS GOT HIS NICKNAME--"THE ANCIENT MARINER"!
YES--THERE WAS AN ALBATROSS IN COLERIDGE'S FAMOUS POEM, "THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER"...
WHAT'S HE GOT AGAINST THE DUTTON SHIPYARDS?
HE WORKED FOR THEM, TAKING NEWLY-LAUNCHED CRAFT ON TEST RUNS! BUT RECENTLY, THEY PENSIONED HIM OFF, SAYING HE WAS TOO OLD!
2

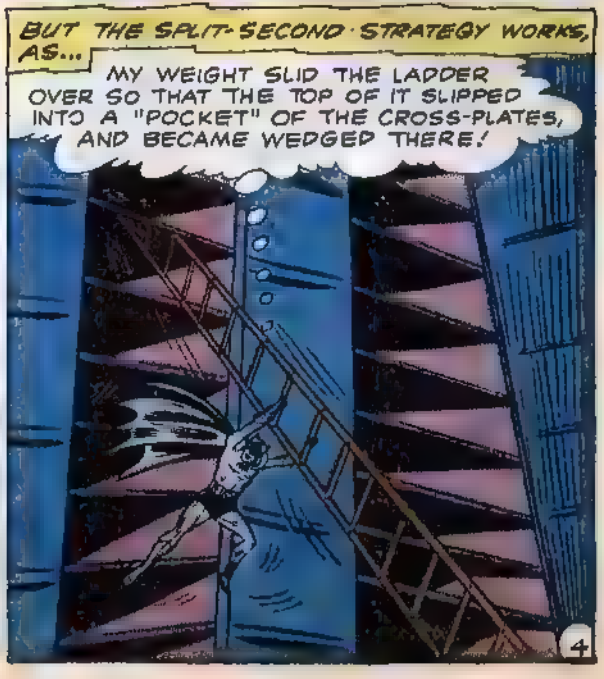

I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM... HE BROODS ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME! I'M AFRAID IT'S AFFECTING HIS MIND!
WELL--MAYBE I CAN HELP FIND HIM ANOTHER JOB! MEANWHILE, KEEP IN TOUCH--LET ME KNOW HOW HE'S GETTING ALONG!
BATMAN IS SOON TO FIND OUT--FOR NEXT EVENING, WHEN THE BAT-SIGNAL SUMMONS ROBIN AND HIM TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
TRAVIS? WHAT'S WRONG?
TONIGHT, STUBBS SWORE HE WAS GOING TO GET REVENGE ON THE DUTTON SHIPYARDS! I TRIED TO REASON WITH HIM--BUT HE KNOCKED ME OUT! WHEN I CAME TO, HE WAS GONE--WITH HIS ALBATROSS!
FOR TWO NIGHTS, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS PATROL THE DUTTON SHIPYARDS, UNTIL...
LOOK--CIRCLING OVERHEAD...THE ALBATROSS!
HMM... IN OLDEN DAYS, SUPERSTITIOUS SAILORS BELIEVED THAT WHEN AN ALBATROSS HOVERED OVERHEAD, BAD LUCK FOLLOWED! I'LL BET STUBBS RELEASED IT AS AN OMEN!
LOOK--THERE'S STUBBS! GOLLY... THE WAY HE'S DRESSED, HE MUST THINK HE REALLY IS THE ANCIENT MARINER!
GREAT SCOTT! YES... I'M AFRAID STUBBS' MIND HAS CRACKED!
SWIFTLY BATMAN AND ROBIN SCALE THE SIDE FRONT OF A VESSEL UNDER REPAIR...
HE'S GOTTEN SOME WHARF RATS TO THROW IN WITH HIM... THEY MUST HAVE STOLEN THE SHIPYARD PAYROLL... AND THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE THEIR GETAWAY BY WAY OF THIS BOW FRONT! WE CAN HEAD THEM OFF!
STUBBS! STOP! WE WANT TO HELP YOU!
FOOL! DO YE THINK YE CAN TRICK THE ANCIENT MARINER? AT 'EM, ME HEARTIES--HEAVE 'EM DOWN!

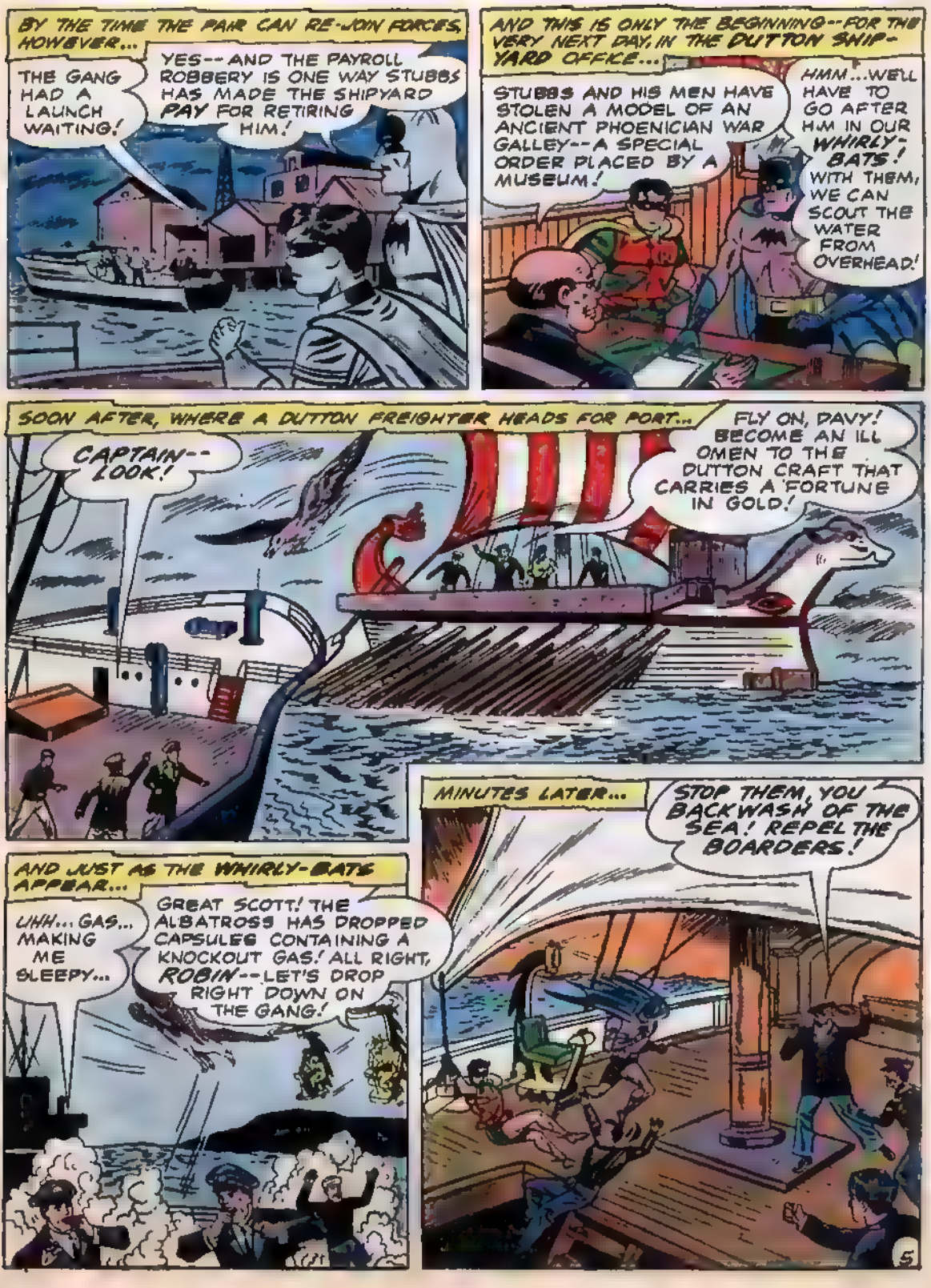

AS THE BATTLE BEGINS...
DAVY! AT HIM, DAVY!
WHAT--? HE'S CALLING HIS ALBATROSS!

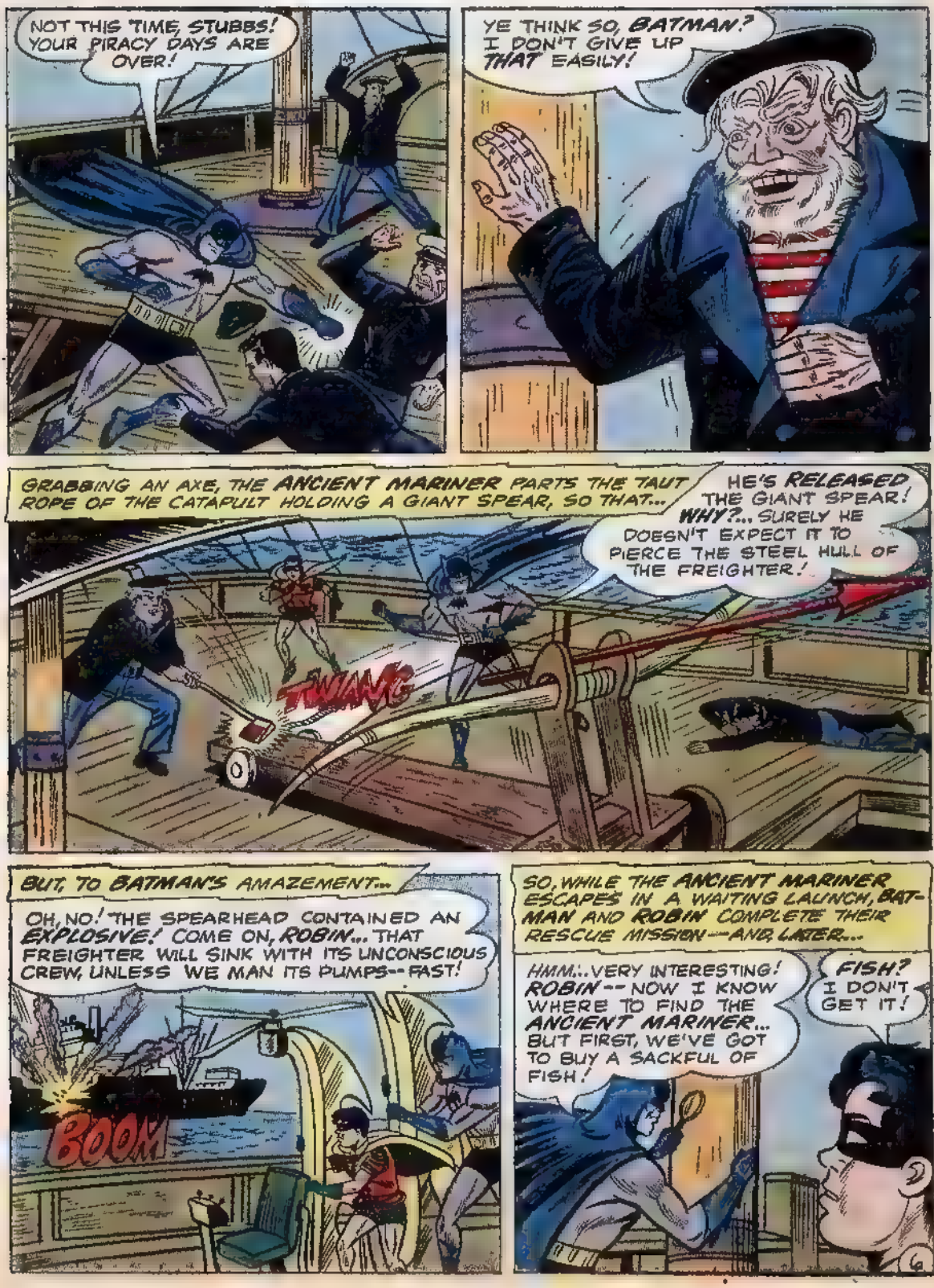
SWIFT AS AN EAGLE, THE GREAT BIRD PLUMMETS DOWN, AND...
OOF!


TOO LATE, ROBIN SNATCHES AT BATMAN-- LEAVING HIMSELF OFF-GUARD...
BATMAN... UHHH...

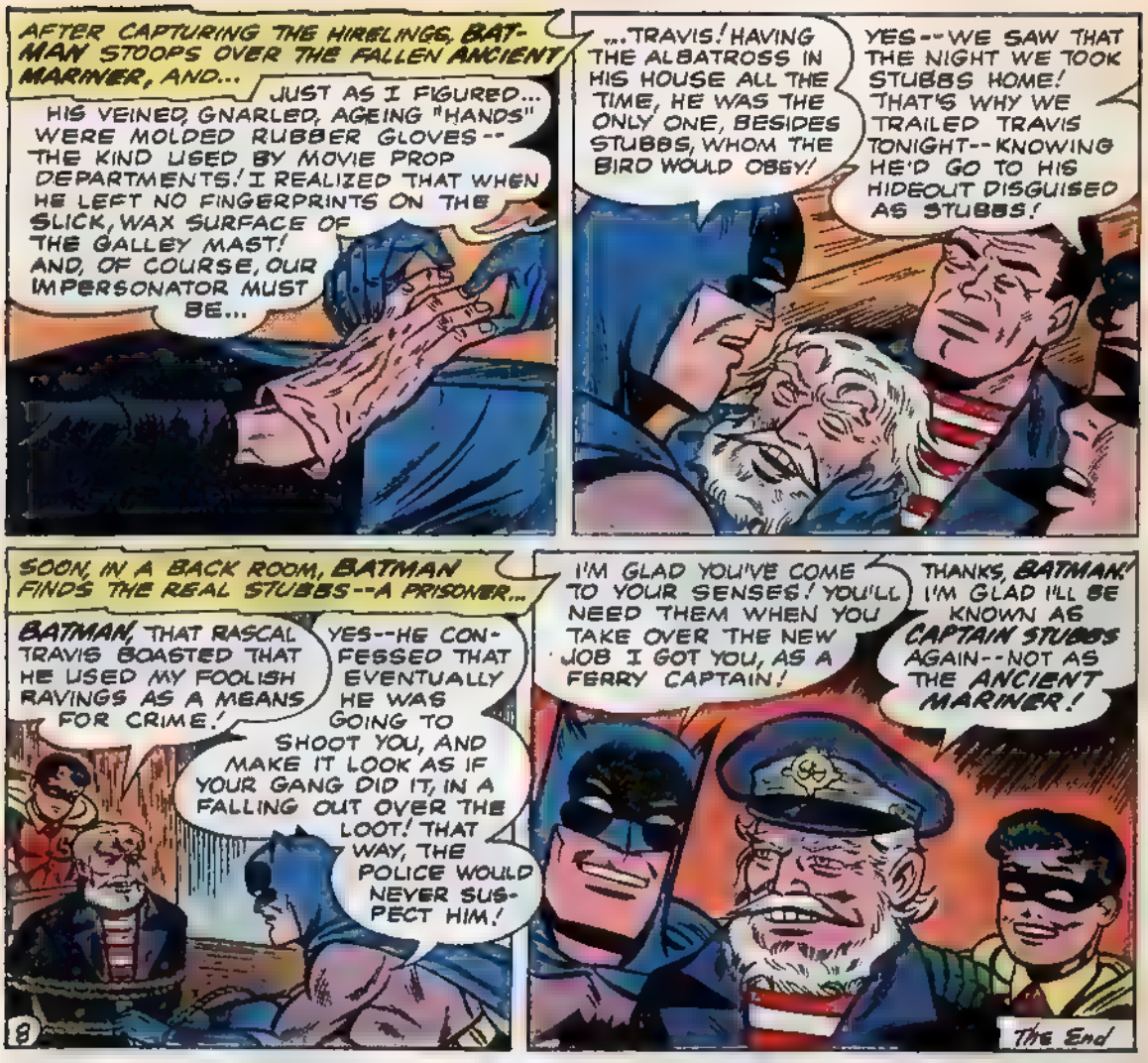
BUT EVEN AS HE FALLS, BATMAN FLINGS OUT A HAND, GRASPING THE RUNG OF A LADDER...
IF THIS FAILS, I'M A GONER!


BUT THE SPLIT-SECOND STRATEGY WORKS, AS...
MY WEIGHT SLID THE LADDER OVER SO THAT THE TOP OF IT SLIPPED INTO A "POCKET" OF THE CROSS-PLATES, AND BECAME WEDGED THERE!


BY THE TIME THE PAIR CAN RE-JOIN FORCES, HOWEVER...
THE GANG HAD A LAUNCH WAITING!
YES--AND THE PAYROLL ROBBERY IS ONE WAY STUBBS HAS MADE THE SHIPYARD PAY FOR RETIRING HIM!
AND THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING--FOR THE VERY NEXT DAY, IN THE DUTTON SHIP-YARD OFFICE...
STUBBS AND HIS MEN HAVE STOLEN A MODEL OF AN ANCIENT PHOENICIAN WAR GALLEY--A SPECIAL ORDER PLACED BY A MUSEUM!
HMM...WE'LL HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM IN OUR WHIRLY-BATS! WITH THEM, WE CAN SCOUT THE WATER FROM OVERHEAD!
SOON AFTER, WHERE A DUTTON FREIGHTER HEADS FOR PORT...
CAPTAIN--LOOK!
FLY ON, DAVY! BECOME AN ILL OMEN TO THE DUTTON CRAFT THAT CARRIES A FORTUNE IN GOLD!
AND JUST AS THE WHIRLY-BATS APPEAR...
UHH... GAS... MAKING ME SLEEPY...
GREAT SCOTT! THE ALBATROSS HAS DROPPED CAPSULES CONTAINING A KNOCKOUT GAS! ALL RIGHT, ROBIN--LET'S DROP RIGHT DOWN ON THE GANG!
MINUTES LATER...
STOP THEM, YOU BACKWASH OF THE SEA! REPEL THE BOARDERS!
5


NOT THIS TIME, STUBBS! YOUR PIRACY DAYS ARE OVER!
YE THINK SO, BATMAN? I DON'T GIVE UP THAT EASILY!
GRABBING AN AXE, THE ANCIENT MARINER PARTS THE TAUT ROPE OF THE CATAPULT HOLDING A GIANT SPEAR, SO THAT...
HE'S RELEASED THE GIANT SPEAR! WHY?... SURELY HE DOESN'T EXPECT IT TO PIERCE THE STEEL HULL OF THE FREIGHTER!
TWANG
BUT, TO BATMAN'S AMAZEMENT...
OH, NO! THE SPEARHEAD CONTAINED AN EXPLOSIVE! COME ON, ROBIN... THAT FREIGHTER WILL SINK WITH ITS UNCONSCIOUS CREW, UNLESS WE MAN ITS PUMPS--FAST!
BOOM
SO, WHILE THE ANCIENT MARINER ESCAPES IN A WAITING LAUNCH, BATMAN AND ROBIN COMPLETE THEIR RESCUE MISSION--AND, LATER...
HMM...VERY INTERESTING! ROBIN--NOW I KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE ANCIENT MARINER... BUT FIRST, WE'VE GOT TO BUY A SACKFUL OF FISH!
FISH? I DON'T GET IT!

WHAT IS BATMAN PLANNING? THAT SAME NIGHT, IN THE HIDEOUT OF THE ANCIENT MARINER...
WELL, CAP'N-- YOU GOT ANOTHER JOB PLANNED FOR US?
AYE, THAT I HAVE! WE'LL UP ANCHOR TONIGHT, AND--
GUESS AGAIN, MR. MARINER! TONIGHT, YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN DRYDOCK!
EH--? BATMAN AND ROBIN!
DAVY! AT 'EM, DAVY!
BUT AS THE BIRD COMES SWOOPING DOWN...
HERE, DAVY-- KEEP YOURSELF BUSY GORGING THESE FISH!
WHAT--? HE WAS READY FOR DAVY THIS TIME!
DESPERATELY, THE CORNERED CRIMINAL REACHES FOR A HARPOON--BUT BATMAN'S FIST MOVES SWIFTLY...
THE END OF THE ANCIENT MARINER'S VOYAGE INTO CRIME!


AFTER CAPTURING THE HIRELINGS, BATMAN STOOPS OVER THE FALLEN ANCIENT MARINER, AND...
JUST AS I FIGURED... HIS VEINED, GNARLED, AGEING "HANDS" WERE MOLDED RUBBER GLOVES -- THE KIND USED BY MOVIE PROP DEPARTMENTS! I REALIZED THAT WHEN HE LEFT NO FINGERPRINTS ON THE SLICK, WAX SURFACE OF THE GALLEY MAST! AND, OF COURSE, OUR IMPERSONATOR MUST BE...
...TRAVIS! HAVING THE ALBATROSS IN HIS HOUSE ALL THE TIME, HE WAS THE ONLY ONE, BESIDES STUBBS, WHOM THE BIRD WOULD OBEY!
YES -- WE SAW THAT THE NIGHT WE TOOK STUBBS HOME! THAT'S WHY WE TRAILED TRAVIS TONIGHT -- KNOWING HE'D GO TO HIS HIDEOUT DISGUISED AS STUBBS!
SOON, IN A BACK ROOM, BATMAN FINDS THE REAL STUBBS -- A PRISONER...
BATMAN, THAT RASCAL TRAVIS BOASTED THAT HE USED MY FOOLISH RAVINGS AS A MEANS FOR CRIME!
YES -- HE CONFESSED THAT EVENTUALLY HE WAS GOING TO SHOOT YOU, AND MAKE IT LOOK AS IF YOUR GANG DID IT, IN A FALLING OUT OVER THE LOOT! THAT WAY, THE POLICE WOULD NEVER SUSPECT HIM!
I'M GLAD YOU'VE COME TO YOUR SENSES! YOU'LL NEED THEM WHEN YOU TAKE OVER THE NEW JOB I GOT YOU, AS A FERRY CAPTAIN!
THANKS, BATMAN! I'M GLAD I'LL BE KNOWN AS CAPTAIN STUBBS AGAIN -- NOT AS THE ANCIENT MARINER!
THE End
8

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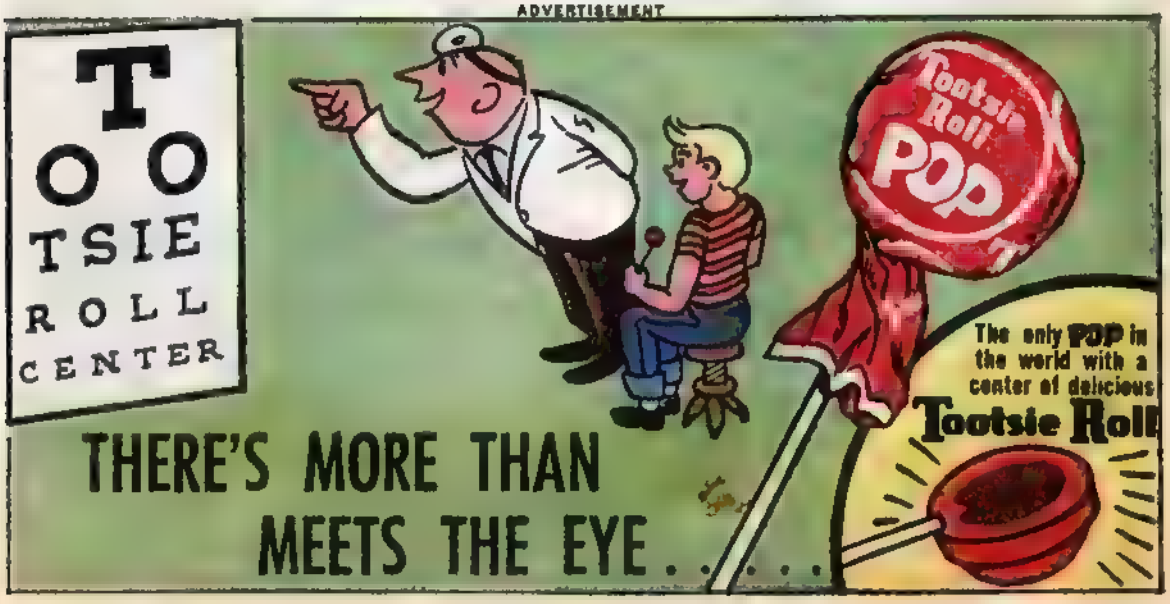

TOOTSIE ROLL CENTER
Tootsie Roll POP
The only POP in the world with a center of delicious Tootsie Roll
THERE'S MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE.....

Dear Editor: Many times, I've seen BATMAN and ROBIN capture criminals who use super-weapons. How come they just destroy these weapons or keep them in their TROPHY ROOM? Wouldn't they be better off using them to fight crime?

Butch Shaw, Cincinnati, Ohio

(Most criminal super-weapons are much too dangerous and destructive. BATMAN and ROBIN fight crime, using weapons that don't risk lives.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: What happens if BATMAN and ROBIN are summoned to a crime scene while Dick Grayson is in school?

Beatrice Thorpe, Grand Rapids, Mich.

(While Dick is in school, BATMAN handles the case alone. As soon as Dick is free, he switches to ROBIN, contacts BATMAN by belt-radio, then joins forces with him.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: When are you planning to have Professor Nichols use his time machine to send BATMAN and ROBIN on another adventure in the past?

Danny Evers, Omaha, Neb.

(In the SEPTEMBER issue of DETECTIVE COMICS, No. 295, the professor sends BATMAN and ROBIN back in time on one of their most exciting quests, when they have to uncover "THE SECRET OF THE BEAST PAINTINGS."—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: In the first BAT-GIRL story, you have a scene where she and BATWOMAN lift up two grown men as if they were made of straw. How can two females have such strength?

Edward Caiazzo, Staten Island, N. Y.

(They weren't actually "lifting up" those two criminals. BATWOMAN and BAT-GIRL have been specially trained in JUDO, the art of using your opponent's weight and strength AGAINST him. The two female crime-fighters were simply tossing the men in typical JUDO fashion.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: In the BATMAN ANNUAL, you show all the terrific ways in which BATMAN and ROBIN have used their unique equipment against crime. I can't help wondering, though, how are they able to get the *parts* for all their vehicles and secret weapons without revealing how these things are built?

Aaron Bridges, Miami, Fla.

(BATMAN and ROBIN never buy all the parts for their equipment in the same place. In that way, nobody knows every single component that goes into their crime-fighting arsenal.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: BAT-HOUND is my favorite animal character. Please let me know when you're featuring him in another BATMAN adventure.

Sid Kane, Rockford, Ill.

(BAT-HOUND seems to be EVERYBODY'S favorite four-legged hero. The famed crime-fighting dog has a number of strange and sinister surprises in store for you, when you next see him in the OCTOBER issue of BATMAN COMICS, No. 143, in "BAT-HOUND AND THE CREATURE!"—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: Is it true that BATMAN once tracked down a criminal with a pair of *eyeglasses* as his only clue? How was this possible?

Harry Finch, Paterson, N. J.

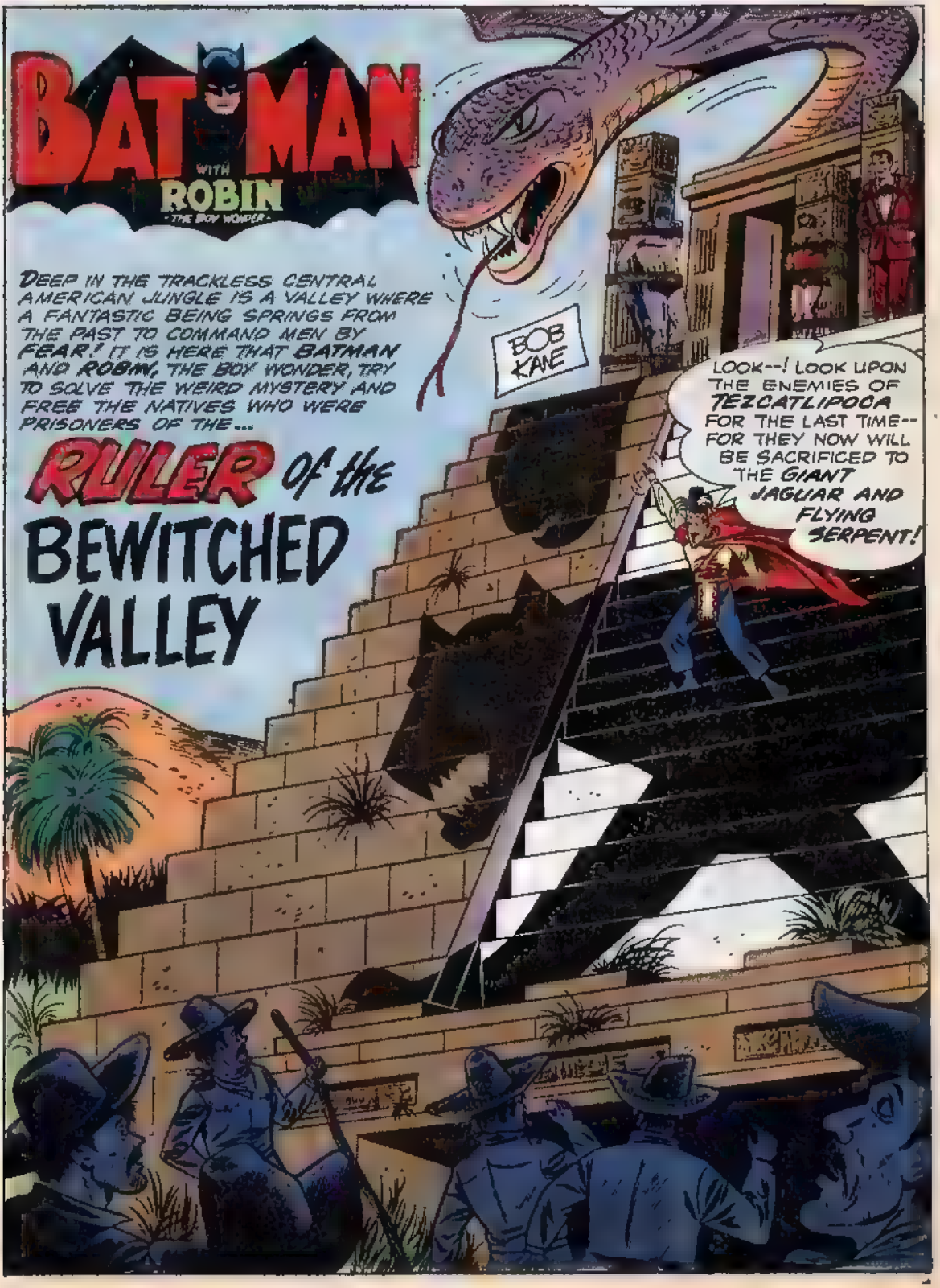
(The crook had dropped his glasses at the scene of the crime. BATMAN later analyzed the prescription of these glasses, in the BAT-CAVE'S CRIME LAB, then alerted opticians throughout the city to inform the police of any customer ordering that same prescription.—Ed.)

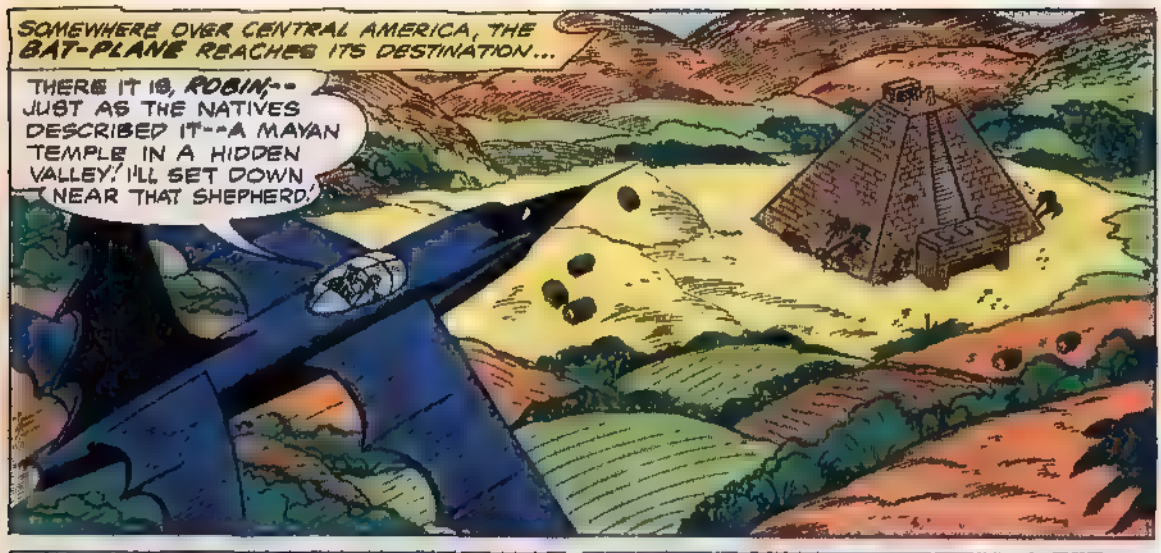
* * *

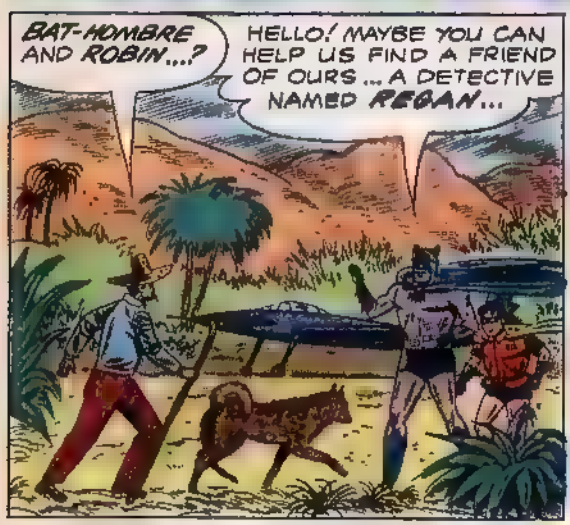
Dear Editor: BATMAN and ROBIN always have their hands full when some phenomenon drains SUPERMAN of his super-powers. When will they be finding themselves in that situation again?

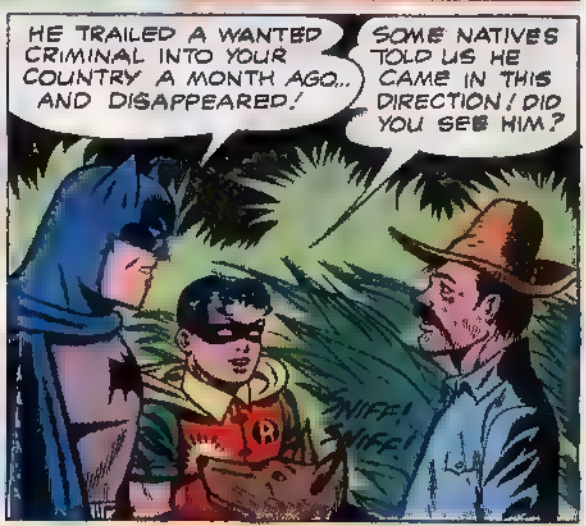
George Kelsey, Boston, Mass.

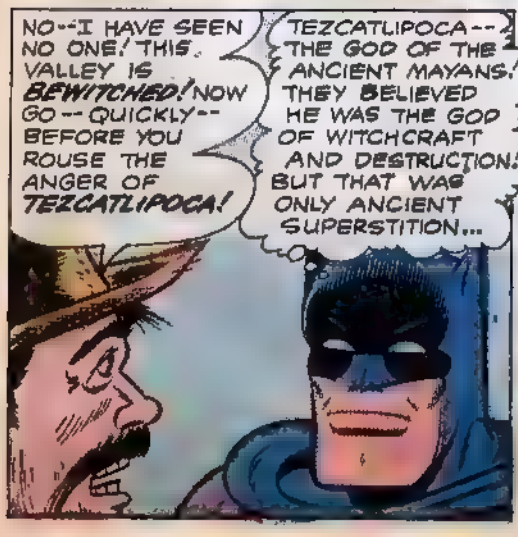
(In the SEPTEMBER issue of WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, No. 120, that's exactly what happens when they join forces with the MAN OF STEEL, to uncover "THE SECRET OF THE FACELESS CREATURES!"—Ed.)

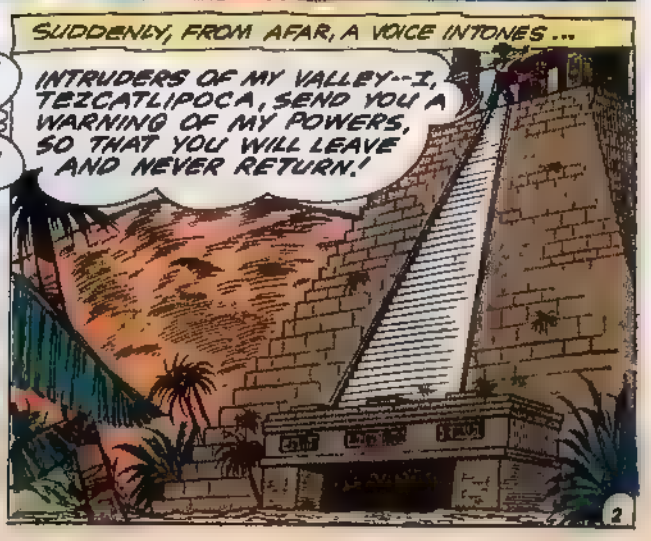

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -
DEEP IN THE TRACKLESS CENTRAL AMERICAN JUNGLE IS A VALLEY WHERE A FANTASTIC BEING SPRINGS FROM THE PAST TO COMMAND MEN BY FEAR! IT IS HERE THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, TRY TO SOLVE THE WEIRD MYSTERY AND FREE THE NATIVES WHO WERE PRISONERS OF THE...
RULER of the BEWITCHED VALLEY
BOB KANE
LOOK--! LOOK UPON THE ENEMIES OF TEZCATLIPOCA FOR THE LAST TIME-- FOR THEY NOW WILL BE SACRIFICED TO THE GIANT JAGUAR AND FLYING SERPENT!


SOMEWHERE OVER CENTRAL AMERICA, THE BAT-PLANE REACHES ITS DESTINATION...
THERE IT IS, ROBIN,-- JUST AS THE NATIVES DESCRIBED IT--A MAYAN TEMPLE IN A HIDDEN VALLEY! I'LL SET DOWN NEAR THAT SHEPHERD!


BAT-HOMBRE AND ROBIN...?
HELLO! MAYBE YOU CAN HELP US FIND A FRIEND OF OURS ... A DETECTIVE NAMED REGAN...

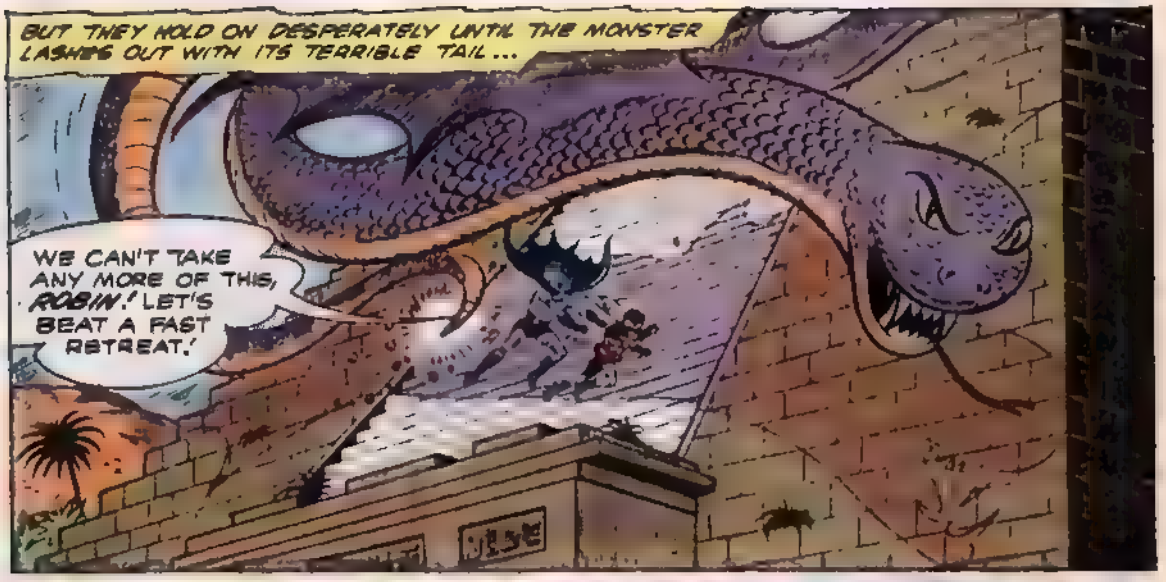

HE TRAILED A WANTED CRIMINAL INTO YOUR COUNTRY A MONTH AGO... AND DISAPPEARED!
SOME NATIVES TOLD US HE CAME IN THIS DIRECTION! DID YOU SEE HIM?
SNIFF! SNIFF!

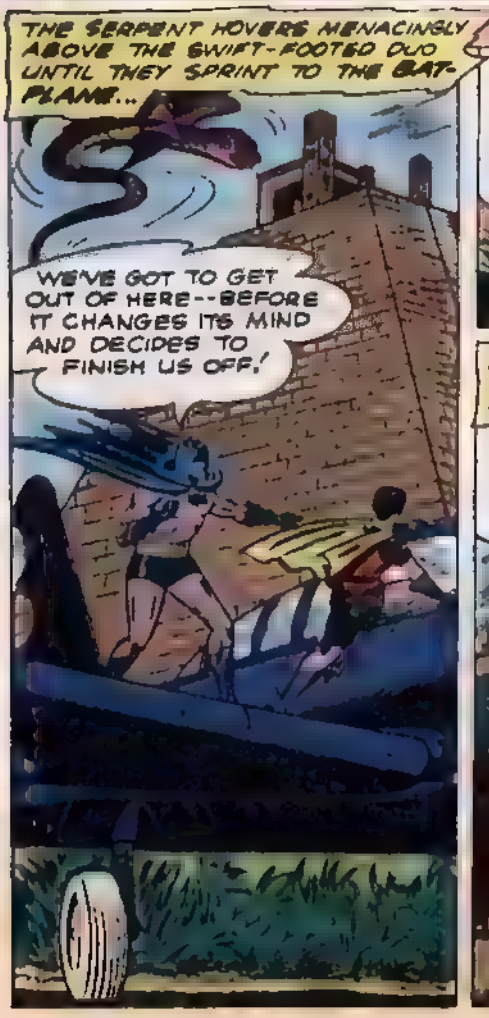

NO--I HAVE SEEN NO ONE! THIS VALLEY IS BEWITCHED! NOW GO -- QUICKLY -- BEFORE YOU ROUSE THE ANGER OF TEZCATLIPOCA!
TEZCATLIPOCA -- THE GOD OF THE ANCIENT MAYANS! THEY BELIEVED HE WAS THE GOD OF WITCHCRAFT AND DESTRUCTION! BUT THAT WAS ONLY ANCIENT SUPERSTITION...

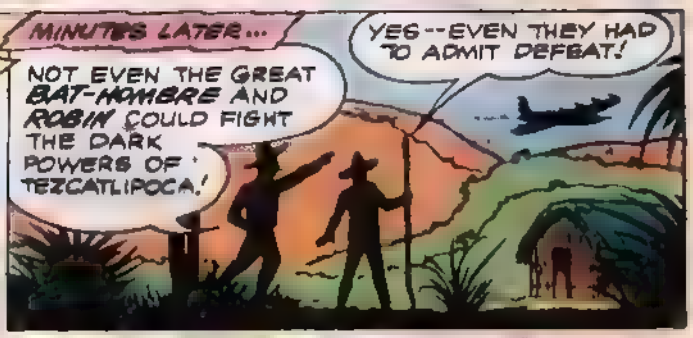

SUDDENLY, FROM AFAR, A VOICE INTONES ...
INTRUDERS OF MY VALLEY--I, TEZCATLIPOCA, SEND YOU A WARNING OF MY POWERS, SO THAT YOU WILL LEAVE AND NEVER RETURN!

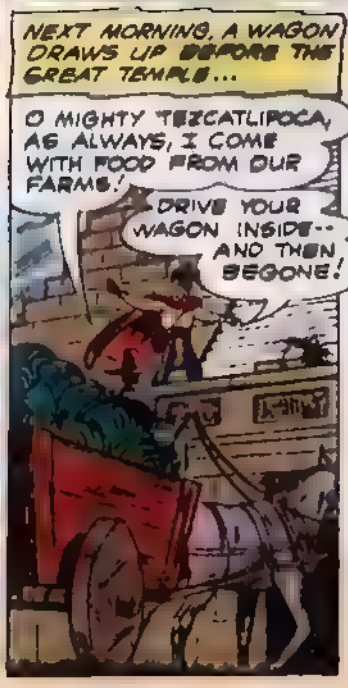
TEZCATLIPOCA--! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
AIII! LOOK!
A JAGUAR--OF GIANT SIZE! LOOK OUT! IT'S SPRINGING!
FLATTEN!
THEN THE COURAGEOUS SHEEP-DOG LAUNCHES HIMSELF AT HIS GIANT OPPONENT...
NOW I CAN GET TO THE BAT-PLANE!
RRRRR!
GRRRRRR!
EVEN AS THE COLOSSAL CAT HURLS THE BRAVE DOG ASIDE, BATMAN LEAPS INTO THE CRAFT, GUNS THE ENGINE...
THAT DID IT! THE POWERFUL JET EXHAUST IS BOWLING IT BACK!
3

THEN THE SNARLING BEAST BOUNDS OFF..
BOY! YOU SURE GOT US OUT OF A JAM!
HERE'S THE BRAVE FELLOW WHO REALLY DESERVES THE CREDIT! IF HE HADN'T DISTRACTED THE JAGUAR, I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT!
SOON, OTHER INHABITANTS FLOCK TO THE SCENE...
IT WAS TEZCATLIPOCA'S POWERS THAT MADE THE JAGUAR A GIANT! PLEASE--GO BEFORE YOU ARE DOOMED... LIKE ALL OF US IN THIS VALLEY!
IF ALL OF YOU ARE SO AFRAID OF TEZCATLIPOCA, WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE?
HE HAS DECLARED HIMSELF OUR RULER--AND DEMANDS WE FARM THE VALLEY AND BRING HIM FOOD FOR TRIBUTE! SHOULD WE TRY TO LEAVE, HE WOULD BRING UNKNOWN TERRORS UPON US! BUT YOU--YOU MUST GO--!
BUT BATMAN ISN'T EASILY DISCOURAGED...
COME ON, ROBIN--I WANT TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THIS PLACE...
GOLLY, IT LOOKS SO... OLD... AND CREEPY!
AS THEY MOUNT THE STEEP STEPS..
FOOLS! YOU WERE WARNED OF MY POWERS! NOW THIS CREATURE I CREATED WILL PUT FEAR INTO YOUR HEARTS!
OMIGOSH! A--A FLYING SERPENT!
POWERFUL WINGS BEAT AT THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTING PAIR, HURLING THEM BACKWARDS..
4


BUT THEY HOLD ON DESPERATELY UNTIL THE MONSTER LASHES OUT WITH ITS TERRIBLE TAIL...
WE CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THIS, ROBIN! LET'S BEAT A FAST RETREAT!

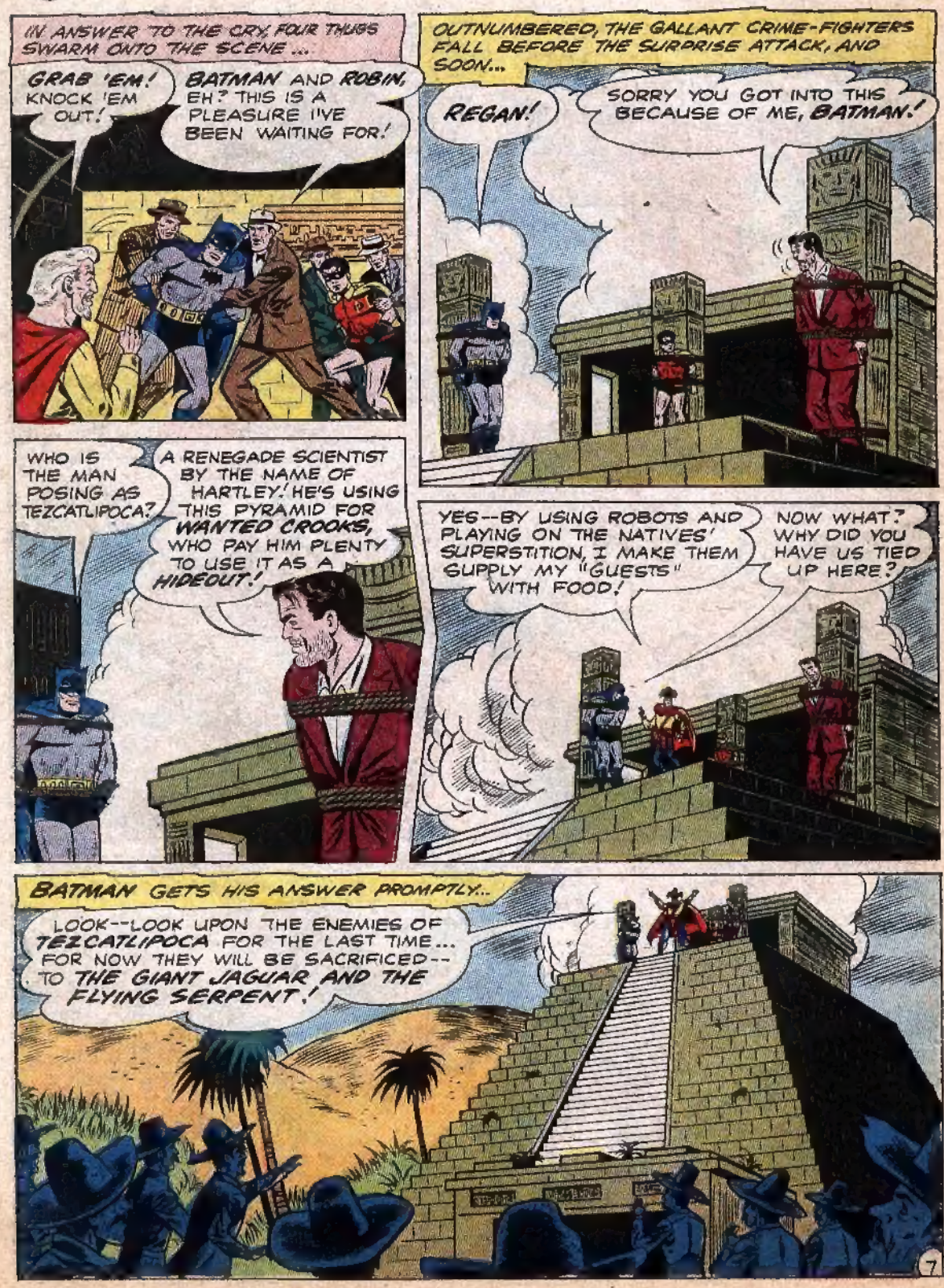

THE SERPENT HOVERS MENACINGLY ABOVE THE SWIFT-FOOTED DUO UNTIL THEY SPRINT TO THE BAT-PLANE...
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE--BEFORE IT CHANGES ITS MIND AND DECIDES TO FINISH US OFF!


MINUTES LATER...
NOT EVEN THE GREAT BAT-HOMBRE AND ROBIN COULD FIGHT THE DARK POWERS OF TEZCATLIPOCA!
YES--EVEN THEY HAD TO ADMIT DEFEAT!

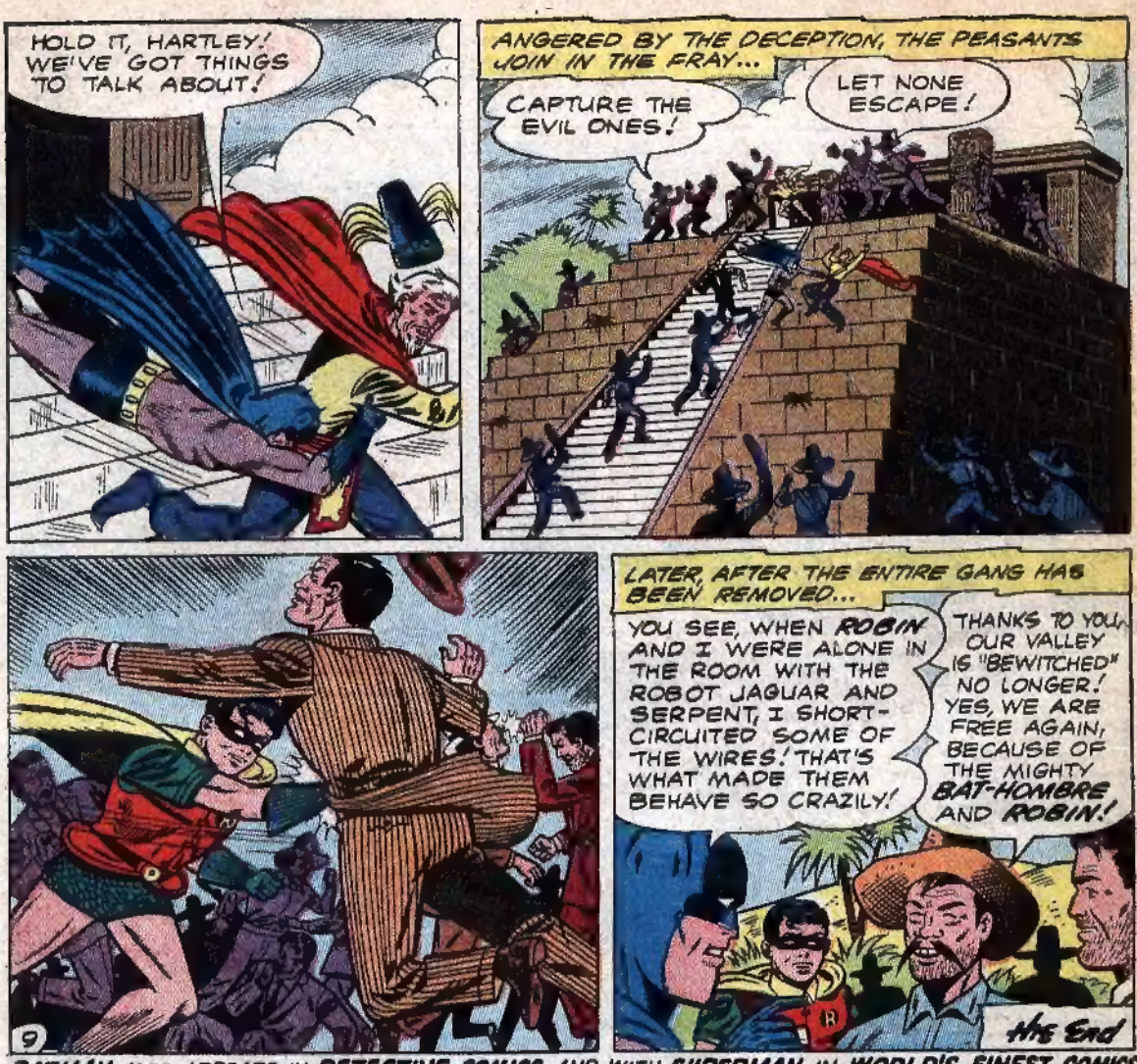

NEXT MORNING, A WAGON DRAWS UP BEFORE THE GREAT TEMPLE...
O MIGHTY TEZCATLIPOCA, AS ALWAYS, I COME WITH FOOD FROM OUR FARMS!
DRIVE YOUR WAGON INSIDE--AND THEN BEGONE!

AFTER THE FARMER HAS OBEYED...
THAT WAS A SMART IDEA, BATMAN--PRETENDING TO LEAVE--AND SLIPPING BACK AFTER LANDING THE BAT-PLANE! WE FOOLED TEZCAT-LIPOCA!
YES! GETTING THAT FARMER TO SMUGGLE US IN HERE WAS EASY! NOW--LET'S EXPLORE THIS PLACE!

AS THEY TURN A CORRIDOR, SUDDENLY...
THE GIANT JAGUAR AND WINGED SERPENT! RUN, BATMAN! QUICK--OUT OF HERE!
BUT TO THE BOY'S ASTONISHMENT, BATMAN WALKS TOWARD THE CREATURES!
I WAS RIGHT!
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? AND--AND THEY'RE NOT EVEN MOVING... JUST STANDING THERE--STARING!
AS ROBIN CONTINUES TO GAPE... BATMAN CUTS AWAY PART OF THE JAGUAR'S SKIN TO REVEAL...
WIRES AND GEARS! IT'S A ROBOT!
BEFORE IT ATTACKED US, WE WERE STANDING DOWNWIND--AND ITS SCENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN CARRIED TO THE SHEEP DOG! BUT THE DOG DIDN'T BARK! WHY? BECAUSE ROBOTS HAVE NO SCENT!
THEN, TIPTOEING INTO ANOTHER ROOM...
HUH? BATMAN AND ROBIN? HOW DID YOU GET INSIDE?
JUST AS I EXPECTED--"TEZCATLIPOCA" IS A FAKE, TOO!
HELP! HELP!
6


IN ANSWER TO THE CRY, FOUR THUGS SWARM ONTO THE SCENE ...
GRAB 'EM! KNOCK 'EM OUT!
BATMAN AND ROBIN, EH? THIS IS A PLEASURE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
OUTNUMBERED, THE GALLANT CRIME-FIGHTERS FALL BEFORE THE SURPRISE ATTACK, AND SOON...
REGAN!
SORRY YOU GOT INTO THIS BECAUSE OF ME, BATMAN!
WHO IS THE MAN POSING AS TEZCATLIPOCA?
A RENEGADE SCIENTIST BY THE NAME OF HARTLEY! HE'S USING THIS PYRAMID FOR WANTED CROOKS, WHO PAY HIM PLENTY TO USE IT AS A HIDEOUT!
YES--BY USING ROBOTS AND PLAYING ON THE NATIVES' SUPERSTITION, I MAKE THEM SUPPLY MY "GUESTS" WITH FOOD!
NOW WHAT? WHY DID YOU HAVE US TIED UP HERE?
BATMAN GETS HIS ANSWER PROMPTLY...
LOOK--LOOK UPON THE ENEMIES OF TEZCATLIPOCA FOR THE LAST TIME... FOR NOW THEY WILL BE SACRIFICED--TO THE GIANT JAGUAR AND THE FLYING SERPENT!

UNOBSERVED BY THE THRONG BELOW, HE PRESSES SEVERAL BUTTONS ON HIS CONCEALED CONTROL-BELT, AND...
NOW SEE THE FATE THAT BEFALLS THOSE WHO DARE TO DEFY THE GREAT POWERS OF TEZCATLIPOCA!
BUT...
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY CONTROLS--?
THE POST... SMASHED... ROPES ARE LOOSE! NOW'S MY CHANCE!
BATMAN QUICKLY FREES HIMSELF, THEN IN THE CONFUSION...
THEY'RE FREE! HELP!
HERE COMES THE THUNDERING HERD! UP AND AT 'EM! THIS TIME, WE'RE READY FOR THEM!
TAKE CARE OF THESE MUGS! I'LL GET HARTLEY!
8


HOLD IT, HARTLEY! WE'VE GOT THINGS TO TALK ABOUT!
ANGERED BY THE DECEPTION, THE PEASANTS JOIN IN THE FRAY...
CAPTURE THE EVIL ONES!
LET NONE ESCAPE!
LATER, AFTER THE ENTIRE GANG HAS BEEN REMOVED...
YOU SEE, WHEN ROBIN AND I WERE ALONE IN THE ROOM WITH THE ROBOT JAGUAR AND SERPENT, I SHORT-CIRCUITED SOME OF THE WIRES! THAT'S WHAT MADE THEM BEHAVE SO CRAZILY!
THANKS TO YOU, OUR VALLEY IS "BEWITCHED" NO LONGER! YES, WE ARE FREE AGAIN, BECAUSE OF THE MIGHTY BAT-HOMBRE AND ROBIN!
9
The End

BATMAN ALSO APPEARS IN DETECTIVE COMICS, AND WITH SUPERMAN IN WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

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